

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 15, 2005.

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 21 under Section 102(b) in view of Anderson. Claims 9-11, 14 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application. No new matter has been inserted. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and objections.

Claims 14 and 21 stand rejected under Section 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Anderson. Applicant incorporates by reference all of its previous arguments made regarding the Anderson patent. Additionally, claims 14 and 21 have been amended to state that the side release buckle comprises a first male buckle section and a second female buckle section and that prior to release the first male buckle section is inserted within the second female buckle section and that a portion of the first male buckle section is exposed to permit a user to actively control the release of the insertion of the first male buckle section from the second female buckle section. Though Applicant continues to believe that Anderson does not disclose a side release buckle, Applicant also now respectfully submits that Anderson clearly does not disclose a two piece side release buckle as now claimed by Applicant. Anderson also fails to disclose a portion of the male buckle section being exposed through one or more openings in the female buckle section. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 14 and 21 under Section 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Anderson.

Claims 1-8 and 12-21 currently stand rejected under Section 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Angelini. Applicant is submitting a further Declaration of Robert Carmichael which enclosed additional drawings and notes that predate the July 31, 2000 filing date of Angelini and also address the Examiner's

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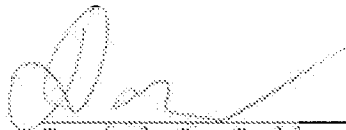
comments regarding the previously filed Carmichael and Stella declarations/affidavits. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 102(e) rejection based on Angelini and respectfully requests that such rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 9-11 have been rewritten into independent form to overcome the Examiner's objections.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses all of the Examiner's rejections and objections contained in the December 15, 2005.

Applicant has completely responded to the December 15, 2005 Office Action. Favorable action is respectfully requested. Any additional charges, including Extensions of Time, please bill our Deposit Account No. 503180.

Respectfully submitted,



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